Allocation for Rail Projects in Orissa

668. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for doubling, electrification of Railway lines and other Railway projects in Orissa during the last five years;

(b) the total Budget allocated and amount for which utilization certificate received during the last five years;

(c) whether it is a fact that major portion of Railway Budget allocated to Orissa is not being utilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 1078.35 crore was allocated in the budget during the last five yeas for new lines, gauge conversion, doubling and Railway electrification projects in Orissa state. Against this, an expenditure of Rs. 981.13 crore have been incurred.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Operational Division of NF Railway in Assam

669. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more divisions on Northern Railway and other zones;

(b) whether Government of Assam has demanded the setting up of another operational division of the NF Railway in Assam, besides the two operational divisions in Alipurduar and Katihar in Bihar, if so, the justifications and grounds adduced in support of the Assam Government's demand; and

(c) Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Demands were received for creation of new Divisions of Rangiya and Badarpur on Northeast Frontier Railway in Assam.

(c) New Railway Division at Rangiya on Northeast Frontier Railway has already been operationalised w.e.f. 01.4.2003.

Additional bogies for Godavari 'Pushkarmas''

670. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway propose to run 25 special trains and attach additional bogies in trains through Rajahmundri for forthcoming Godavari "Pushkarmas;

(b) what other facilities Government are going to provide to pilgrims attending 'Pushkarmas'; and

(c) the number of days these trains will run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Additional booking counters with Self Printing Ticket Machines, waiting sheds, drinking water raps, toilets, enquiry counters with BSNL telephone facility, public address system, catering stalls, first aid centres, ambulance, I.E.D. display boards are being provided. Besides, augmentation of the existing services have been planned depending upon the waitlist position on day-to-day basis subject to load factor.

(c) 12 days i.e. from 30.7.2003.to 10.8.2003.

Agartala-Sabroon Rail Line

671. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways are going to take up any plan to connect the capital cities of the North-Eastern States by railway lines;

(b) progress made towards laying of railway lines from Agartala to Sabroon in Tripura; and

(c) whether the provision of fund will be made to start the preliminary work of railways from Agartala to Sabroon during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The following three new line